

July 2, 2015

Ms. Susan Juetten
4420 S. Jumbo Way
Washoe Valley, NV 89704

RE: Anaconda/Yerington Mine Site

Dear Ms. Juetten:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 11, 2015 to Governor Sandoval regarding the Anaconda/Yerington mine site. Your letter has been provided to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Corrective Actions for our review and response.

Our office works directly with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on site actions and priorities, including both the groundwater and Arimetco portions of the site you highlighted in your letter.

Site Wide Groundwater

Our understanding is that the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) is continuing to perform all field and work and associated analyses and reporting required by the EPA on site wide groundwater contamination. Because there are several potential source areas across the site that may have contributed in the past or have the potential in the future to contribute to groundwater contamination, EPA is overseeing ARC work on site wide groundwater as one integrated area. NDEP is working with EPA and ARC to take advantage of all the groundwater data collected over the past several years and begin scoping discussions on groundwater cleanup objectives, alternatives, and scheduling.

Arimetco

When Arimetco declared bankruptcy and walked away from the site in 2000, EPA, ARC, and NDEP, and once they owned the site in 2011, Singatse Peak Services (SPS) have worked collaboratively to stabilize the Arimetco portion of the site. Collectively this group has provided funding for and conducted the following work:

- Operation and maintenance of the fluid management system and reporting;
- Removal of leaking evaporation ponds;
- Evaporation pond system liner repair, replacement and other equipment upgrades;
- Evaluation of short term fluid management options; and
- Addition of fluid capacity in the form of new evaporation ponds.

These actions have brought this area of the site to a stable condition and we expect to have adequate fluid capacity for the next 4 years.

Concurrently with these actions, the group has worked on development of longer term solutions for the Arimetco areas, including completion of a Draft Final Feasibility Study by EPA in May 2012 and an updated Water Balance Analysis by ARC in 2014. In June 2015, NDEP distributed a Conceptual Closure Plan and Cost Estimate for closing the Arimetco facilities in a manner consistent with mine closures required by Nevada mining regulations.

At this stage we are still looking at a range of potential solutions and funding options, and NDEP is in discussions with SPS and AR regarding their potential participation in these longer term solutions to the Arimetco portion of the site. As we continue exploring these options, we will keep the community updated on our progress.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at 775-687-9381 or jrcollins@ndep.nv.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeff Collins
Chief, Bureau of Corrective Actions